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VENABLE

April 20, 2001

Attorney Docket: 31869-170959

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith is the following patent application:

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The priority of the following foreign applications is claimed under 35 USC 119: Japan No. 206929/00 filed July 7, 2000

The application includes

- x a description pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.71;
- \mathbf{x} at least one claim pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.75;
- x Formal drawings pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.81(a) [6 sheets] (Figs. 1-9).
- x Certified copy of Japan 206929/00 filed July 7, 2000

In view of the above, it is requested that this application be accorded a filing date pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)(1).

A Declaration signed by the inventors and the filing fee will be submitted in due course.



MAS/njp

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Respectfully submitted,

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